

Appl. No. 10/658,470
Amendment dated May 30, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 30, 2005

Attorney Docket No. FSF-031461

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to incorporate a cross-reference to related U.S. patent application 10/002,170 (now US Patent 6,682,878) in accordance with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). A petition for claiming the benefit of priority under 35 USC 120 of application 10/002,170 (now US Patent 6,682,878) is also submitted herewith in accordance with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3). Accordingly, the present application is now a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application 10/002,170 (now US Patent 6,682,878).

Further, claim 5 has been amended. Claims 5-8 are pending in the application.

Claim 5-8 stand rejected based on 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has amended independent claim 5 and thus it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Fukui and Biegler. Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the combination of Fukui and Biegler in further view of either Kudo or Asanuma.

Since the present application is now a continuation-in-part of Fukui, the Fukui reference is no longer considered as prior art to the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of claims 5 and 6-8.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 5-8 are hereby submitted in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheldon J. Moss
Reg. No. 52,053
TAIYO, NAKAJIMA & KATO
703-838-8013
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